

In the Claims:

1           1.     [Currently Amended] An image forming device comprising:  
2           an image engine configured to form hard images;  
3           an environmental sensor configured to monitor at least one environmental  
4           condition proximate to the image forming device and to provide data indicative  
5           of the at least one environmental condition;  
6           an interface configured to communicate the data indicative of the at least  
7           one environmental condition externally of the image forming device;  
8           a memory; and  
9           processing circuitry configured to control storage of the data using the  
10          memory to provide a history of the at least one environmental condition  
11          ~~conditions~~ to which the image forming device has been exposed.

1           2.     [Original] The device of claim 1 wherein the image engine is  
2           configured to use a consumable to form the hard images, and the interface  
3           comprises a memory of the consumable.

1           3.     [Original] The device of claim 1 wherein the interface comprises a  
2           communications interface adapted to communicate with devices external of the  
3           image forming device.

1           4.     [Original] The device of claim 1 further comprising processing  
2           circuitry configured as an embedded web server and configured to communicate  
3           the data with respect to a client device external of the image forming device.

1           5.     Canceled.

1           6.     [Previously Presented] The device of claim 1 wherein the  
2           processing circuitry is configured to control the storage of the data at a  
3           predetermined moment in time.

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1           7.     [Previously Presented] The device of claim 1 wherein the  
2 processing circuitry is configured to monitor the data and to control the storage  
3 of the data responsive to the monitoring.

1           8.     [Original] The device of claim 1 further comprising an internal  
2 power source configured to provide power to the sensor in an absence of power  
3 from a source external of the image forming device.

1           9.     [Original] The device of claim 1 wherein the environmental sensor  
2 is configured to monitor the at least one environmental condition comprising a  
3 plurality of environmental conditions proximate to the image forming device and  
4 comprising humidity and temperature.

1           10.    [Original] The device of claim 1 wherein the image engine  
2 comprises a print engine of the image forming device embodied as a printer.

1           11.    [Currently Amended] A method of operating an image forming  
2 device, the method comprising:

3               providing an image forming device configured to form hard images;  
4               sensing at least one environmental condition of an environment proximate  
5 to the image forming device;

6               communicating data regarding the at least one environmental condition  
7 externally of the image forming device; and

8               receiving a request within the image forming device from a source  
9 external of the image forming device, and the communicating comprises  
10 communicating responsive to the receiving; ~~and~~

11               ~~wherein the providing comprises providing the image forming device~~  
12 ~~configured to use a consumable to form hard images, and the communicating~~  
13 ~~comprises storing the data regarding the at least one environmental condition~~  
14 ~~using the consumable.~~

1           12.    Canceled.

1           13.    Canceled.

1           14.   [Original] The method of claim 11 wherein the sensing comprises  
2 sensing a plurality of environmental conditions comprising temperature and  
3 humidity.

1           15.   [Original] The method of claim 11 wherein the providing comprises  
2 providing the image forming device embodied as a printer.

1           16.   [Previously Presented] A method of monitoring an environment  
2 proximate to an image forming device configured to form hard images, the  
3 method comprising:

4           providing an image forming device configured to form hard images and to  
5 monitor at least one environmental condition proximate to the image forming  
6 device and to communicate data regarding the at least one environmental  
7 condition externally of the image forming device;

8           receiving the data regarding the at least one environmental condition from  
9 the image forming device; and

10          analyzing the data regarding the at least one environmental condition after  
11 the receiving to determine a quantitative parameter for the at least one  
12 environmental condition for testing other image forming devices.

1           17.   Canceled.

1           18.   [Original] The method of claim 16 further comprising  
2 communicating a request to the image forming device, and wherein the  
3 communicating the data is responsive to the communicating the request.

1           19.   [Original] The method of claim 16 wherein the providing comprises  
2 providing the image forming device configured to use a consumable, and  
3 wherein the receiving the data comprises extracting the data from the  
4 consumable.

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1           20.   [Original] The method of claim 16 wherein the providing comprises  
2 providing the image forming device configured to monitor the at least one  
3 environmental condition comprising a plurality of environmental conditions  
4 comprising temperature and humidity.

1           21.   [Previously Presented] An image forming device comprising:  
2           an image engine configured to form hard images;  
3           an environmental sensor configured to monitor at least one environmental  
4 condition proximate to the image forming device and to provide data indicative  
5 of the at least one environmental condition;  
6           an interface configured to communicate the data indicative of the at least  
7 one environmental condition externally of the image forming device; and  
8           an internal power source configured to provide power to the sensor in an  
9 absence of power from a source external of the image forming device.

1           22.   Canceled.

1           23.   [Previously Presented] An image forming device comprising:  
2           an image engine configured to form hard images;  
3           an environmental sensor configured to monitor at least one environmental  
4 condition proximate to the image forming device and to provide data indicative  
5 of the at least one environmental condition;  
6           an interface configured to communicate the data indicative of the at least  
7 one environmental condition externally of the image forming device; and  
8           wherein the image engine is configured to use a consumable to form the  
9 hard images, and the interface comprises a memory of the consumable.

1           24.   [New] The device of claim 1 wherein the data of the history  
2 comprises a plurality of values for the at least one environmental condition  
3 stored over a period of time.

1           25.   [New] The device of claim 1 further comprising an internal power  
2 source configured to provide operational power to permit storage of the data to  
3 provide the history of the at least one environmental condition during an  
4 absence of power from a source external of the image forming device.

1           26.   [New] The method of claim 11 wherein the providing comprises  
2 providing the image forming device configured to use a consumable to form hard  
3 images, and the communicating comprises storing the data regarding the at least  
4 one environmental condition using the consumable.

1           27.   [New] The method of claim 16 wherein the quantitative parameter  
2 comprises a temperature range.

1           28.   [New] An image forming device testing method comprising:  
2 providing a first image forming device to be tested;  
3 accessing a history comprising data indicative of at least one  
4 environmental condition to which at least one second image forming device has  
5 been exposed;  
6 determining at least one testing criteria responsive to the accessing of the  
7 history; and  
8 testing the first image forming device using the testing criteria after the  
9 determining.

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